

Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan!

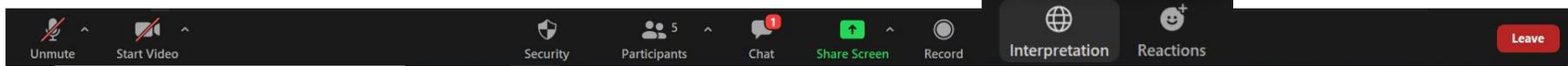
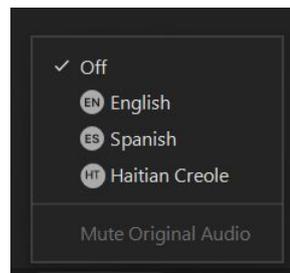
Community Meeting
October 25, 2022



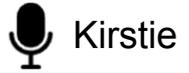
Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Akeyi!



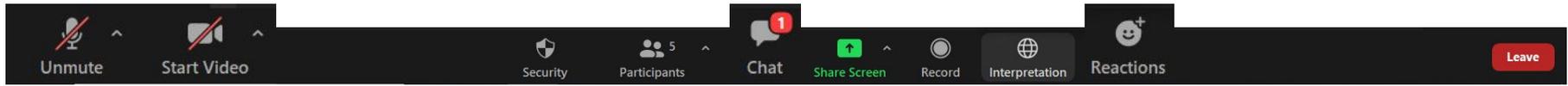
- Si hablas español y prefieres escuchar la reunión en esta lengua utiliza el botón de “Interpretation” (Interpretación) para acceder al canal de audio en español.
- *Si w pale Kreyòl Ayisyen e w prefere tandè reyinyon an nan lang sa a tanpri sèvi ak bouton "Interpretation" (Entèpretation) pou w jwenn aksè ak chèn odyo pou Kreyòl Ayisyen an.*



Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Akeyi!



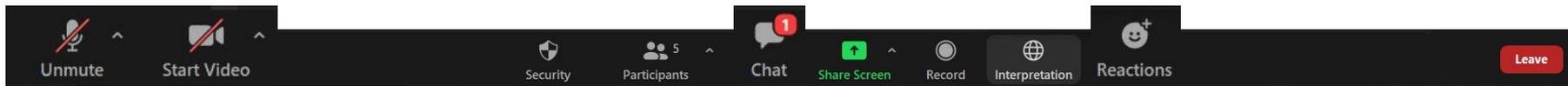
- This meeting **will be recorded**.
 - Esta reunión será grabada.
 - *Reyinyon sa a ap anrejistre.*
- Update your name in Zoom to include your preferred name and your pronouns.
 - Actualiza tu nombre en Zoom con tu nombre preferido y tus pronombres.
 - *Aktyalize non w sou Zoom pou w mete non prefere w ak pwonon w.*



Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Akeyi!



- Your microphones are turned off to start. You will need to unmute to speak. Joining via phone? Press ***6** to unmute.
 - Tu micrófono está apagado al empezar. Tendrás que reactivarlo para hablar. ¿Participando por teléfono? Presiona *6 para reactivar el micrófono.
 - *Mikwo w fèmen pou kòmanse. Ou pral bezwen ouvri mikwo a pou w pale. W ap konekte pa telefòn? Peze *6 pou ouvri mikwo a.*
- You can use non-verbal feedback options. Raise your hand or leave a message in the chat box if you have a question. If you called into the meeting, use ***9** to raise your hand.
 - Puedes utilizar las opciones de reacción no verbales. O dejar un mensaje en el chat si tienes alguna pregunta. Si estás llamando por teléfono usa *9 para levantar la mano.
 - *Ou gendwa sèvi ak opsyon fidbak non-vèbal. Leve men w oswa kite yon mesaj nan bwat tchat la si w genyen yon kesyon. Si w konekte nan reyinyon an, sèvi ak *9 pou leve men w.*





Kirstie

Welcome!

Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan

Community Meeting
October 25, 2022





Kirstie

Project Goals

Goal 1:

Improve pedestrian safety along Blue Hill Ave

Goal 2:

Expand transportation options and reliability

Goal 3:

Connect infrastructure investments to the rest of community life
(ex. housing and development, business and economic development, and public realm improvements)



Stephen

Meeting Goals

Goal 1:

**Orient residents to where this project came from
and why this process is different**

Goal 2:

**Provide information about who is involved
(City of Boston, MBTA, Consultants, Community Partners)**

Goal 3:

Listen to your questions and comments to inform what happens next



Stephen

Tonight's Agenda

1. Key Orientation Points

2. The Team

3. What have we been doing, Where we are now, Where are we going next

4. Discussion

5. Closing Remarks



Allentza

Blue Hill Avenue

A Historic Overview



Civic Design with Equity in Mind



(above) A horse car buggy in the mid-1850s.

(right) The construction of Park St station in 1897.

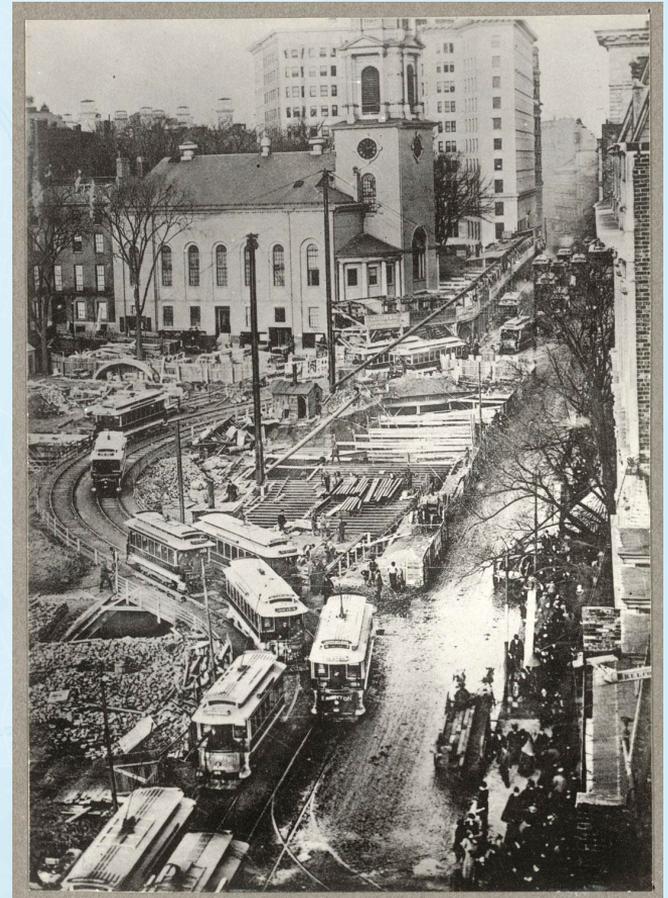
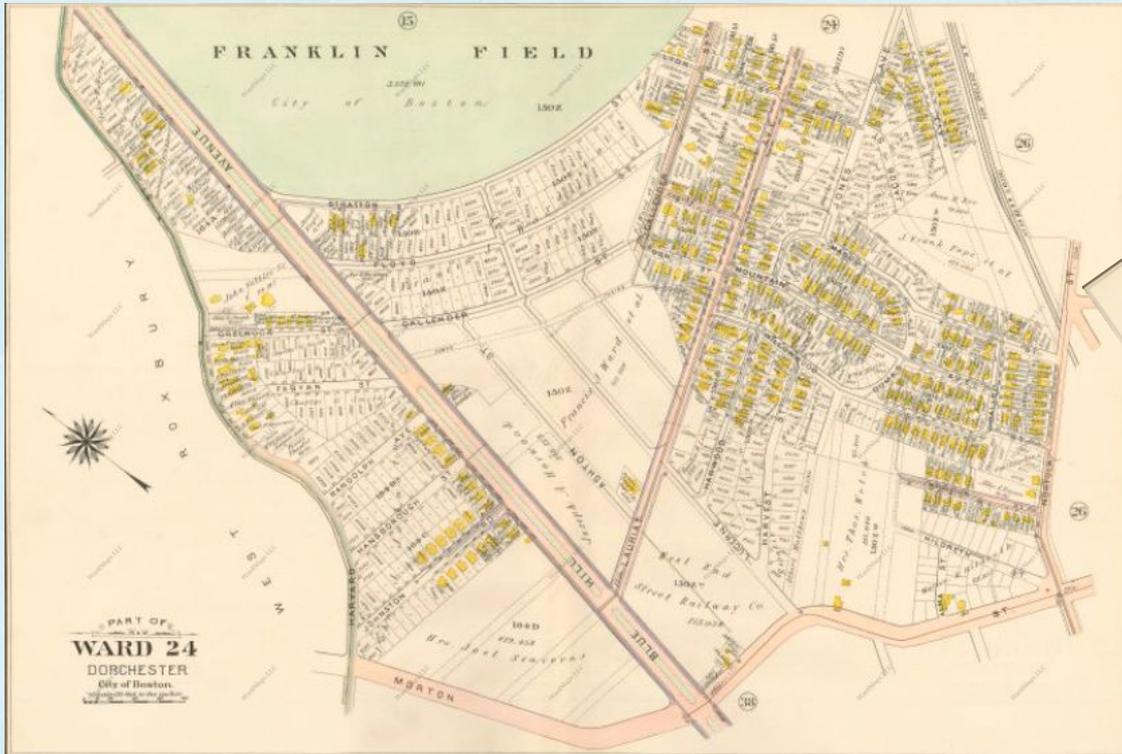


Image Source: Boston Archives



1902 Bromley Map of Blue Hill Ave



2019 Google Map of Blue Hill Ave

PUBLISHED BY THE NOVELTY ART CO., MATTAPAN MASS.



New Depot, Mattapan Square, Mattapan, Mass.

510 River St
Boston, Massachusetts



Google

Street View - Jul 2019



Google



Blue Hill Ave at Arbutus St stop, 1929. Credit: Boston City Archives

Housing, Redlining, & Transit

Triple-Deckers

Image source: Google Maps



When electric trolley lines (streetcars) were extended from downtown Boston to neighborhoods, former mill towns which were recently annexed to the city, by the late 1800s and through the 1930s, real estate developers began to build affordable homes with convenient access to the trolleys (transit oriented development).

Around the same time, Boston began to receive an influx of immigrants – mainly Irish, Jewish and Italian people. Despite pushback from political elites at the time, triple-deckers were a solution to house working class and middle class immigrant families in a strategy that predated redlining but was similar in design. Triple-deckers were affordable, and cemented generational wealth and many Irish and Jewish families settled in parts of Roxbury, Dorchester and Mattapan (Italian families largely went to the North End and East Boston). Further, despite the decline in the condition of many units (in part due to white flight), today, triple-deckers are valued upwards of \$960,000 – \$1.6 million.



Housing Projects

Federally funded housing in neighborhoods along Blue Hill avenue were primarily housing development projects which promoted redlining and segregation practices, as “white flight” began to be widespread across the neighborhoods.

Franklin Field Housing Development (“Franklin Field Projects”) is a federally funded housing project completed in 1954. This is also the year that Brown vs the Board of Education is passed. In 1956, the Federal Highway Act is passed.

This timeline is significant because whilst the triple-deckers were built around access to the streetcars, by the time most housing projects were occupied by low-income people of color, the streetcars were being replaced with buses.

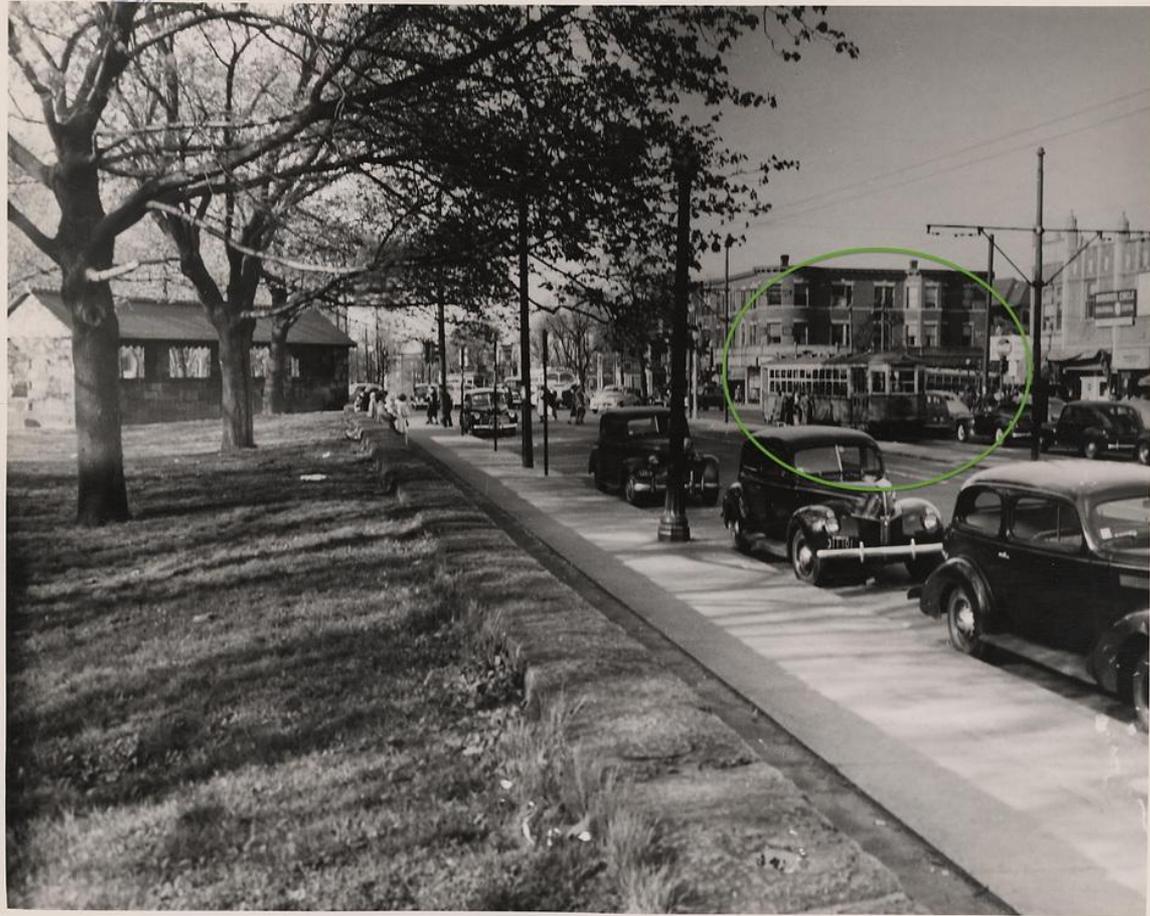
Home Owners Loan Corporation Map of Boston

Source: Boston Magazine

NO 538 Bluehill Ave Looking To Columbia Rd 4 24 49 4 35 P.M.



NO 533 Bluehill Ave Looking To Columbia Rd 4 24 49 4 10 P.M.





Google



Type 5 Streetcar, 1955

Source:
bostonstreetcars.com/
Boston city Archives





Street Trees, Lighting & Active Transit Infrastructure in decline

Source: Google Maps

Image Taken Oct 2020

877
No. ~~422~~ Bluehill Ave looking South from Babson to Mattapan Sq 3 25 P.M. 4 28 48



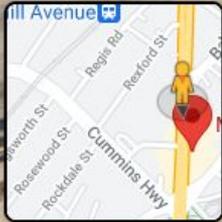
1583 MA-28

Boston, Massachusetts



Google

Street View - Oct 2020



Google



ED. 6295



Mattapan Square. Image Credit: Boston.com, 2011

Blue Hill Avenue: 2009 – 2020

While there have been lesser projects along Blue Hill Avenue between the 1970s to the early 2000s, there has not been any major road work conducted on Blue Hill Avenue covering the span of the Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan.

2009 – 2011:

Federal American Recovery & reinvestment Act (ARRA or “Obama stimulus”) funding. Remaining funds allocated to MA were set to expire. Under the Patrick Administration, the state (MassDOT and MBTA) announces plans to launch the 28X, converting the 28 bus to SilverLine. The project is marketed as dedicated bus lanes to improve and allow for rapid transit.

28X is not supported by the community. Residents and businesses alike argue that raised fare prices would be forced on low income people, parking elimination, and lack of community engagement. Local lawmakers asked the state to withdraw the proposal.

2011 – 2012:

The 28X process prompted the MassDOT-led The Roxbury Dorchester-Mattapan (or “RDM”) study which covered Mattapan Square to the edge of the South End, one the largest areas within 10 miles of downtown Boston not served by rapid transit. As part of feedback from an advisory group which cautioned about the lack of community engagement regarding the 28X, MassDOT issued surveys and community and held 3 public meeting to identify opportunities to improve public transportation service that have broad community support.

2013 – 2019:

Increasing studies and educational campaigns that were intended to promote recommendations to improve transit along Blue Hill Avenue. Proposals such as bus rapid transit and center running bus lanes are included in early studies, and in GoBoston2030 (merged with ImagineBoston 2030 in 2017) and other planning reports. In 2018, the city began the early stage of the Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan.



Why center-running bus lanes?

Webster Ave, New York City



- Ridership and mobility access for MBTA users are more streamlined
- Sidewalks would be freed up for more improved design
- Motorists should experience more improved traffic
- The 28 bus route is one the highest utilized bus routes in the system. More than half of all travelers on Blue Hill Ave are in buses.
- Black bus riders spend, on average, 64 more hours per year aboard MBTA buses when compared to their fellow White passengers (“State of Equity” report, MAPC, 2017)
- Ranking #1 for worst congestion, Boston drivers lose 149 hours a year stuck in traffic (INRIX report, 2019)
- Economic Mobility and Equity – According to the Census, the median income for residents of Mattapan, Dorchester and Roxbury is \$43,900.
- The area median income for the Boston metro region, which affordable housing rates are calculated and measured, is \$98,150.
- The City is raising its awareness about the intersectionality of transit, housing, environment, economic development and preserving local culture.

There are many street design issues to address along Blue Hill Avenue...



LANE WIDTH



**CROSSWALKS
PROMOTING
SPEED
CONTROL**



**CURB
EXTENSIONS**



SIDEWALKS

Blue Hill Avenue Today – What Would You Like To Change?

- Sidewalk Width?
- Trees?
- Lighting?
- Better Bus Experience?
- Improved safety conditions for walking?
- Dedicated bike lanes?
- Median or no Median?
- Bus in the center, or stay on the side?
- Less traffic? More traffic?

**What are the pros and cons
to what we choose to do, or
not do?**

Places and Links to Learn More

- Times of Israel:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/what-happened-to-the-jews-of-bostons-jew-hill-avenue/>

- Dorchester Historical Society
- Boston City Archives
- Brodin-Sacks, Karen. *How the Jews Became White Folks & What That Says About Race in America*. 1998
- “Boston’s Triple-Deckers.” Boston Redevelopment Authority, 1978
- Boston Magazine – *How Did Boston Become So Segregated*
- Boston Globe – Boston’s *Triple-Deckers Were Once an Affordable Housing Solution*
- [Boston traffic congestion worst in the United States, study says - Curbed Boston](#)
- www.bostonstreetcars.com
- www.mbta.com/history



Allentza

REACTIONS

Reactions/ questions to what has been presented so far

(Feel free to use the Chat or raise your hand to be called on)



Jeff

POLL

How do you travel through the city?
(walk, bike, car, public transit, other)

What's your home zip code?

(If you can't get the poll to work, feel free to use the Chat)



Stephen

Where We Have Been

Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan (BHA TAP) and Mattapan Square Transportation Engagement Activity Since 2019

Meetings

- 6/01/19 Launched Survey
- 6/29/19 PLAN: Mattapan
- 9/25/19 BHA TAP Project Kickoff
- 3/05/20 BHA TAP Paint Boxes and Murals
- 9/30/20 BHA TAP Concept Plan Update
- 6/15/21 BHA TAP Grant Opportunities
- 7/06/21 MS CL: Youth Survey Launched
- 10/18/21 BHA Mattapan Square
- 12/06/21 RAISE Grant Update
- 1/11/22 BHA Mattapan Square
- 1/25/22 Elected Officials Briefing
- 1/27/22 BHA Town Hall
- 2/15/22 BHA Mattapan Sq Intersections
- 4/16/22 RISE Gateway Sculptures
- 5/02/22 BHA Mattapan Square
- 5/07/22 RISE Gateway Sculptures
- 5/17/22 BHA Prelim. Stakeholder Meeting
- 7/11/22 Parking and Development

Pop Ups

- 6/18/21 Parklet @ Juneteenth
- 9/04/21 MS CL Popup
- 9/11/21 MS CL Popup
- 9/18/21 MS CL Popup
- 9/25/21 MS CL Popup
- 11/20/21 Columbus Ave Bus Lanes Visit
- 6/22 MS CL: Main Streets
- 6/24/22 MS CL: Mayor's Coffee Hour
- 6/30/22 MS CL Popup
- 7/16/22 MS CL Open Streets: BHA
- 7/28/22 MS CL + SPARKBoston @ Kay's Oasis

Walks

- 4/7/22 Grove Hall Business Walk & Listening Session
- 4/14/22 Blue Hill Ave Business Walk - Seaver St to Harvard St
- 7/15/22 Mattapan Square Business Walk

Workshops

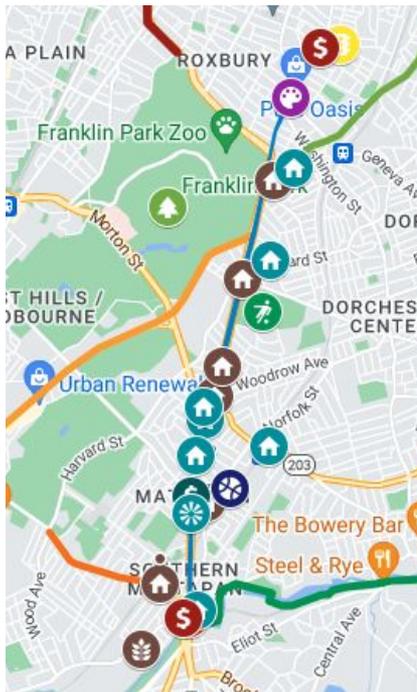
- 8/21/19 Bus Priority Learn-a-thon
- 7/21 Complete Streets Deets: MFFC
- 7/21 Complete Streets Deets: BNB
- 7/21 Complete Streets Deets: SFTT
- 7-9/21 7 Virtual Complete Streets Deets
- 8/13/21 Complete Streets Deets: Codman
- 11/01/21 Complete Streets Deets: MTC
- 12/17/21 Complete Streets Deets: Mildred
- 12/18/21 Complete Streets Deets: BNC
- 2/26/22 Youth T-Talk: BHA as a Place
- 6/09/22 T-Talk: Mattapan as a Place
- 6/16/22 T-Talk: Mattapan as a Place
- 7/22-8/22 MS CL: Youth Engagement Committee
- 8/3/22 MS CL: Youth-led Walk Audit



Stephen

There's lots going on around Blue Hill Ave

Existing and Ongoing Projects Inventory



Warren Street Bus Priority Corridor

Columbia Road Greenway

Harambee Park Improvements

PLAN: Mattapan

Cummins Highway Redesign

American Legion Highway Safety Improvements

Franklin Park Master Plan

Columbus Ave Bus Priority Corridor

Mattapan Square Redesign

Neighborhood Slow Streets: Grove Hall/Quincy Corridor

Fairmount Line Service Enhancement

DPW Resurfacing Projects

Bike Share Expansion

Grove Hall Plaza Mural

Greater Grove Hall Main Streets Green Median

Bus Network Redesign

DCR Neponset River West

Mattapan Line Improvements

Bridge Replacement - Blue Hill Avenue over Railroad



Stephen

How We Are Working Differently

Holistic Approach to Blue Hill Ave

not just transportation...

also public realm, housing & development, business & employment





Stephen

Who is involved?

City of Boston

Boston Transportation Department:
Kirstie Hostetter, Project Manager

Internal workshops with city liaisons

Office of Housing
Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion
Boston Planning & Development Authority
Office of Neighborhood Services
Office of New Urban Mechanics
Office of Arts and Culture
Disabilities Commission
Age Strong Commission

MassDOT/ MBTA

MBTA Capital Delivery:
Erik Scheier

MBTA Transit Priority:
Andrew McFarland

MassDOT District 6 (Blue Hill Ave/Boston):
Benjamin Muller



Jeff

QUESTION

What do you think would make Blue Hill Avenue a better place?

(Use the Chat to provide your thoughts)



Jeff

The Team (so far) for engagement decision making

Engagement consultants

Grayscale Collaborative
Powerful Pathways
Consult LeLa
Toole Design Group

Community partners (to be expanded)

Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition
Greater Mattapan Neighborhood
Council

Boston Transportation Department

So far, stakeholder workshops with:

Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Association, Greater Grove Hall Main Streets, Project R.I.G.H.T. Inc., Franklin Park Coalition, Mattapan Teen Center, Morning Star Baptist Church, Mattapan Main Streets, Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Mattapan Community Health Center, Franklin Park Zoo



Stephen

Where We Are Now

Feedback from Stakeholder Workshops on 8/23, 8/30, and 9/13

Who Should We Be Talking To?

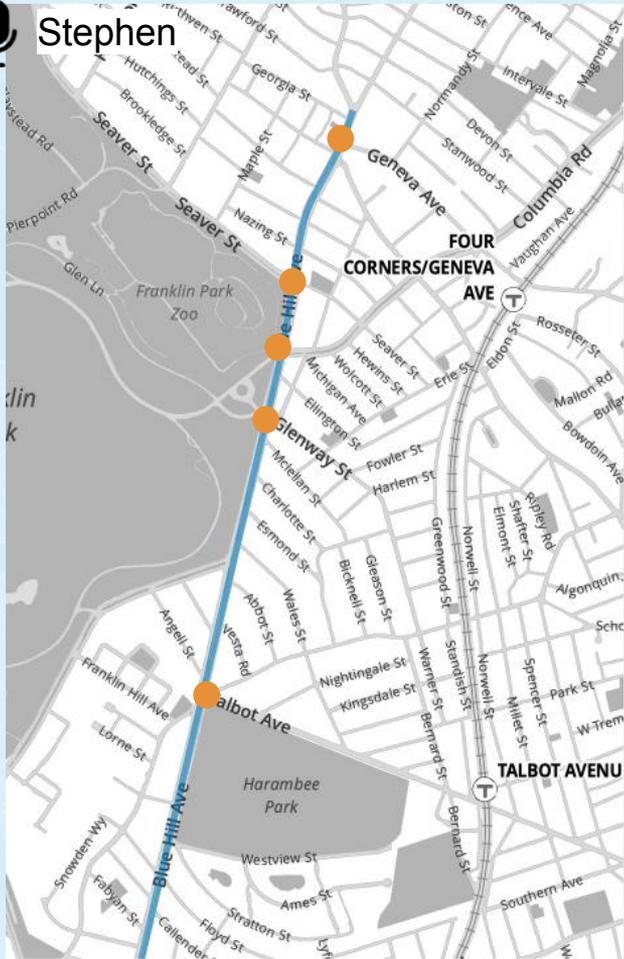
- Residents of public housing
- Seniors
- Families with young children
- Youth/Students
- Businesses + Shoppers
- Churches
- Health Centers
- Developers and building owners
- Bicyclists/Drivers/Bus Riders

What Would Success Look Like?

- Center quality of life, health, and safety (heat islands, air quality, pedestrian safety, green space)
- Ensure this project makes it convenient and reliable to access businesses, services, and cultural centers
- One size doesn't fit all for Blue Hill Ave. How can we tailor change to the needs of particular locales?



Stephen



Problem Areas

Identified to date from feedback from stakeholder workshops on 8/23, 8/30, 9/13



Stephen

Stated Problems

Feedback from stakeholder workshops on 8/23, 8/30, 9/13

- Unsafe sidewalks that are difficult to navigate
- Lack of access to health facilities due to traffic congestion
- Double and triple parking
- Not enough parking for persons with disabilities
- Commuters using business and resident parking spots
- New developments creating visual barriers for traffic
- Limited public realm areas, some “green” medians are the only green spaces in the area
- Air quality, particularly around busy intersections
- Commuters from outside of Boston using Blue Hill Avenue to access the city to avoid I-93 and the traffic that comes with that



Chavella

QUESTION

What are your biggest safety concerns along Blue Hill Ave?

(if you have any specific locations of concern, please let us know)

Use the Chat to provide your feedback



Chavella

DISCUSSION

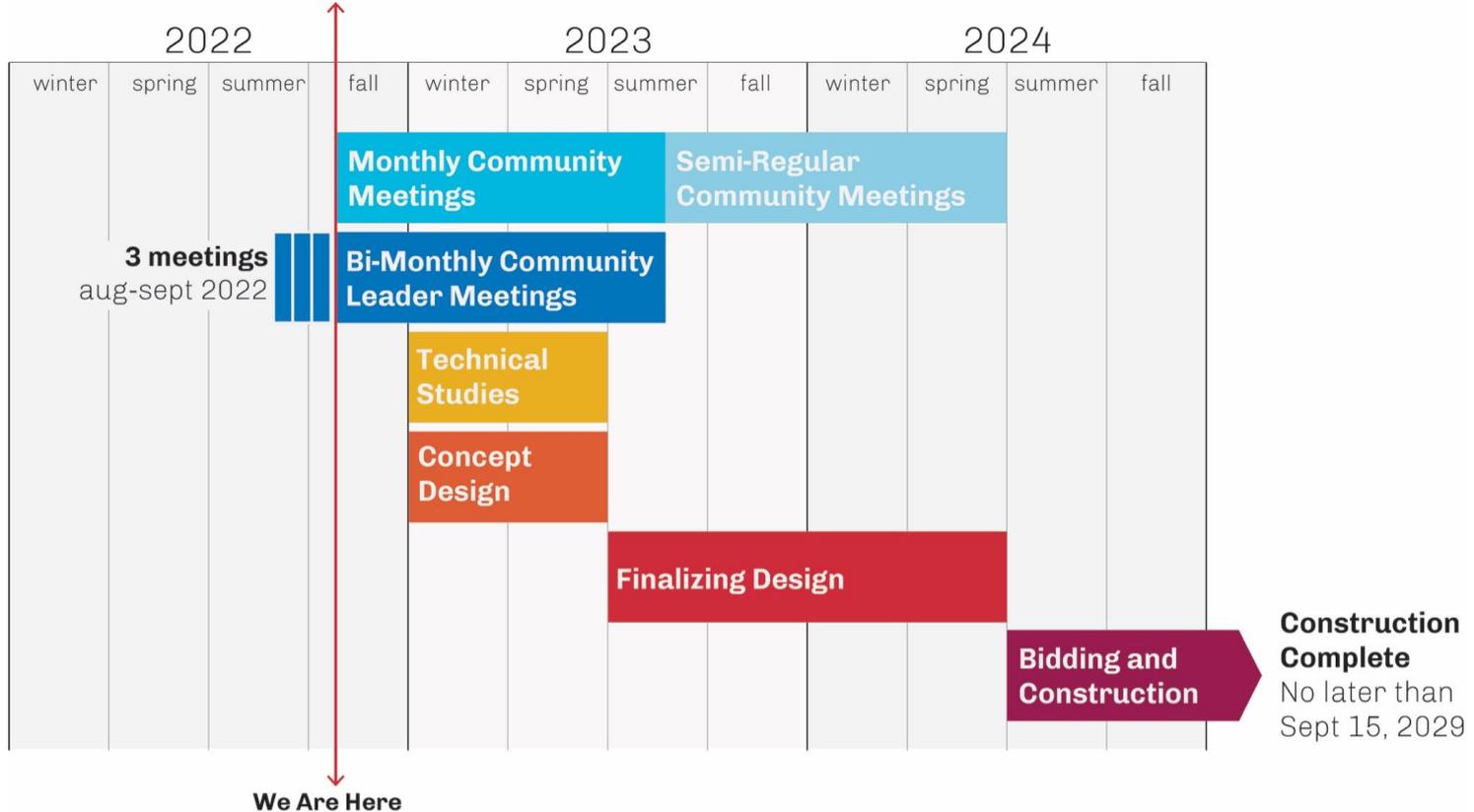
When you think about Blue Hill Avenue, what are the primary topics that you think the city should focus on?





Kirstie

Where We Are Going Next





Stephen

Ways To Stay Involved

Phone : 617-635-3944

Website: boston.gov/blue-hill-avenue

Email: bluehillave@boston.gov

What other questions do you have?

[Let us know using this form!](#)

Upcoming Community Meetings

Fourth Tuesdays 6:30pm-8:00pm

Next meeting: November 15
Then every fourth Tuesday Jan. - July
(1/24, 2/28, 3/28, 4/26, 5/23, 6/27, 7/25)

JANUARY 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

MARCH 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

MAY 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JUNE 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

JULY 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					